



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 24 June 2006/ 28 Sivan 5766

Service Times (Shabbos Mevarachim)

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	8.50 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	10.28 pm
Kabbalos Shabbos next Friday	7.30 pm

Today we are delighted to be dedicating the beautiful 'Modim d'Rabbanan' Board that has been presented to the Kehilla by **Ida Lee** and **Pat & Ziggy Wolowacz** in loving memory of their dear sister Mildred Michaels. Clayhall Shul is very grateful for this generous gesture which is such a fitting way to perpetuate the memory of a loved one. Ida has great pleasure in inviting the community to a Kiddush after the Service.

Today is **Shabbos Mevarachim** when we bless the new month of Tammuz. Rosh Chodesh is Monday and Tuesday, 26th/27th June. Shacharis will be at the slightly earlier time of **6.45 am** in order to accommodate the additional *Tefillos* to be said.

Reading of the Torah

Sedrah Synopsis:

Jonathan Mervish

Leyning: Shelach L'Cha

Immanuel Burton

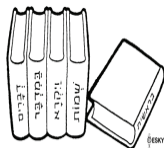
Hertz p 623 , Soncino p 860

Haftorah:

Alan Rubenstein

Hertz p 635, Soncino p 875

Clayhall's illustrious, legendary and sumptuous smoked salmon and beigel breakfast is tomorrow morning after Shacharis. Davening as usual is at 8.15 am followed by the gastronomic delight - even the toaster is ready!



This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by Ruth & Robin Abrahams to welcome Sarah back from her GAP Year in Israel

Children's & Youth Service

Reception - Year 6

10.30 am – 11.30 am

Year 7 - Year 11

10.30 am - 11.30 am

Weekday Services

Shacharis: Monday to Friday, 7.00 am. Sunday @ 8.15 am.

Minchah: 1.15 pm, Monday to Thursday.

Ma'ariv: 7.30 pm every Tuesday & Wednesday evenings.

Sunday breakfasts: 25 June, 23 July & 27 August

The Schottenstein Edition Gemaras

We are delighted that our complete 73-volume set of Gemaras are now displayed in a beautiful hand-made bookcase situated in the Shul library. It is our hope and prayer that they will be well used in the years ahead as a means to increase Torah study. You can also sponsor individual editions for £25 with an appropriate insert.

Kashrus Update

Please check out the latest Kashrus updates on:

www.kosher.org.uk

The June 2006 version is packed with new product information. You can print it out and stick it into your existing Kashrus guide. It's very important to be right up-to-date in order to maintain high standards of Kashrus. Keeping Kosher in 2006 is as easy as ever. The London Beis Din has made enormous strides in recent years for our benefit.

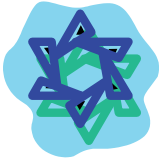
Youth Service Update

As was previously mentioned in the 'Clayhall Kehilla', the HO's and the Board of Management were going to submit an application to *Tribe* (Young United Synagogue) for a part-time Youth Coordinator. This paper has now been completed and submitted to them. Our aim is to employ a young professional who will run a Shabbos morning programme every fortnight for young people in school years 7 to 11. If this is successful and, subject to funding, this might be extended to a weekly basis. The HO's see this post as crucial to the future rejuvenation of the Youth Service. We simply do not have the time and expertise to deliver the highest quality for our youngsters.

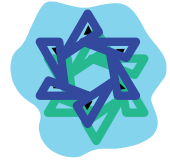
Rabbi Update

The Honorary Officers are **very pleased** with the progress being made. Again, a lot of time and effort is being exerted, and we are quite determined that this time round, there will be no last minute problems. This is why you will appreciate the confidential and sensitive nature of our negotiations. Watch this space!

*Our Gavriel Zvi is almost 3
So Mitzvahs he'll be keeping
With his locks cut short, on his Upshere day
Rewards he will be reaping*



*We're celebrating July 16th
In the afternoon at 2
It's our little boy's Upsherin
And we're inviting You...*



*Coventry Road Shul, Ilford
Karen and Bradley Rubenstein*

***Ladies Guild Italian
Evening on Sunday
10th September.
Details to follow.***

Inter-Shul Athletics

The United Synagogue is running (no pun intended!) an inter-shul athletics competition on Sunday 16th July in Watford for young people aged 5 to 12 years. Please speak to Bradley Mervish if you would like to take part.

Shul Library

Please use our Shul library that is located in the Ackerman Resource Centre on the ground floor. Over **160** books to read or borrow covering a range of Jewish topics are available. We will shortly be sending out the list of books to encourage greater use. If anyone would like to donate books either in celebration of a Simchah or to commemorate a Yahrzeit, please speak to Michelle.

Before the 'Three Weeks'

There are days when all Israel fasts because of the tribulations which they recall. The purpose of such days is to awaken hearts towards repentance through recalling our forefathers' misdeeds; misdeeds which led to calamities as well as our own repetition of those deeds. Each person is required to engage in self-examination on those days, and to undertake repentance for wrongdoing. Those who spend the fast day idly emphasise what is secondary and disregard what is essential. Nevertheless, one cannot discharge his obligation through repentance alone, for fasting is prescribed on these days as a Prophetic ordinance, and all Israel have accepted these fast days throughout the generations.

The Sin of the Spies

The real sin of the spies, teaches *Ramban*, is that they over-reacted to their own fear and that of the nation, so that they became pessimistic about G-d's promise to His people. As leading figures in the community, they should have tried to bolster the people's courage and inspire them with joy and enthusiastic trust in Hashem. Another aspect of their sin was heresy. When they said to one another, '*Let us appoint a leader and let us return to Egypt* (14:1), they implied that they would abandon the Torah and the mitzvos that they had accepted at Sinai. That constituted heresy, which if done on purpose, would bring upon them the punishment of *Kares*, *spiritual excision* (an early death).

The Sin of the spies may also have been motivated by doubts about the leadership of Moshe. A few days before, Eldad and Meidad had prophesied that Moshe would die and Yehoshua would lead the people into Israel. Now, they had almost reached the border and were uncertain as to whether the young and inexperienced Yehoshua could lead them against a strong, well-armed enemy. The Chassidic Sages relate another dimension. They teach that the Jews led an ideal life in the desert. They had an abundance of food in the manna which fell from the heavens; they had water from the miraculous well of Miriam; they had clothing which did not wear out. They could devote themselves totally to Torah without the slightest material concerns. In Israel, though, they would have to plant and work the fields. This did not seem to them an improvement over their life in the desert. In accepting such a negative view, they failed to recognise the real importance of a life of action, a life of doing mitzvos, especially those connected with the soil of Israel.

The Zohar goes even more deeply into this episode. Moshe surely knew that there were trees in Israel and yet he instructed the spies to seek the answer to the question. But it was the '*tree of life*' that he had in mind. That tree represents the Torah, *a tree of life for all who grasp it* (Mishlei 3:18). Moshe needed to know if Israel's air was spiritually healthy and free from the kind of contamination which could impede the process of Torah thought. The spies, however, focused only on the material aspects of the Holy Land, bringing back as their major trophy a cluster of grapes, some pomegranates and figs. Faced with this negative reply to his question, Moshe gave up further attempts to obtain information about the Promised Land.

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